

VUFIND

Benoit Pauwels

Université Libre de Bruxelles - Libraries
Head of Automation
Av. F.D. Roosevelt 50, CP 180
1050 BRUSSELS Belgium

Abstract: VuFind has been one of the pioneering search&find solutions, and, despite the recent departure of the lead developer from the development team at Villanova University, has acquired quite some popularity as a portal solution in mainly university and national libraries over the past years. The presentation will start off with a short overview of the main features and Web2.0 functionalities that are offered by the open source VuFind integrated search&find solution. VuFind is typically known as a front end search experience for library catalogs, and the underlying code and libraries used in the software reflect this. ULB Libraries however have adopted VuFind in different use cases: national union catalog, regional repository of e-theses, and the public search&find interface for its own in-house information sources. In all of these cases information resources are harvested over OAI-PMH and are indexed into a database Lucene, using the SOLR API. This presentation will briefly go into some detail on this technical implementation and show the resulting interfaces.

VuFind (<http://www.vufind.org>) is a library resource portal designed and developed by Villanova University's Falvey Memorial Library under project leader Andrew Nagy. It is open source and web based.

VuFind was originally conceived as a new OPAC experience. It can export and import MARC records from ILS and has ILS specific drivers for holding information and availability. VuFind can be used as a portal solution for all library resources - library catalog, article databases, digital library, institutional repository & bibliography, and other library collections and resources.

VuFind has a customizable interface, allowing for localization and branding. It uses Yahoo User Interface CSS, PHP Smarty templates, XML/XSL, AJAX, Javascript. ILS specific 'drivers' for holding information and availability status are available for Voyager, Aleph, III, SirsiDynix, Koha, Evergreen. It features faceted search experience; "More like this" (algorithmically generated suggestions); resource can be save to organized lists; there is a Browse feature; and internationalization.

In addition, VuFind offers persistent URLs (bookmarkable searches); RSS feed per search query; OAI syndication; CiteThis, EmailThis, TextThis;; Export record to Endnote or Refworks. Social features include tagging and comments. Records can be further

enriched with book covers from Amazon, Syndetic, or Google Books; book item reviews from Amazon or Syndetic; and author biographies from Wikipedia.

Technical details:

VuFind runs on Linux, Solaris, or Windows; uses Apache SOLR, an open source search engine based on Lucene;; Apache HTTP Server 2.2 or later; PHP 5.1.0 or later; Smarty templates; XSL, Javascript, CSS, YUI; MySQL 4.1 or later; Java J2SE JDK 1.5 or later; GNU Aspell Library (optional spell checker).

Exporting MARC records from the ILS: Use the VuFind import facility. Each record is stored in a separate file; Index in Lucene through SOLR web service; delivered SOLR schema.xml for MARC records

Searching: VuFind communicates with Lucene through SOLR web service and returns a unique identifier for records. Record data is fetched from the filesystem (XSL).

Recommendations:

Keep VuFind functionality. Don't keep: MARC based; filesystem; import utility; rather, OAI harvest.

DI-fusion: Institutional library resources: IR, ethezes repo, digithèque, [catalog, iconothèque]. BICTel - regional e-theses repository; Unicat

- Belgian national virtual catalog.